

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

Santo Domingo, D. R.

Tel. (809) 566-3131

Fax: (809) 381-0062



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### **USAID PROMOTES CLEANER PRODUCTION IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**SANTO DOMINGO** – USAID Director, Ms. Elena Brineman, said on the Melia Hotel that “No doubt, to achieve an increase in economic competitiveness, the application of clean production practices and an adequate environment protection is required”, as she inaugurated the conference on “Cleaner Production in the Caribbean: Promoting and Implementing Cleaner Projects on Manufacturers and Tourism sector”.

Ms. Brineman stated that “We are supporting Dominican initiatives focused and oriented to change policies that will allow the private sector to increase its competitiveness, thus, promoting changes that will favor the country before the challenges of a global economy. The support offered to different competitiveness initiatives is based upon the development potential and growth, as well as its potential to generate wealth, as a fighting tool against poverty.”

The event was co-sponsored by the Santo Domingo Chamber of Commerce and Production and the World Environment Center, an independent entity dedicated to the development of sustainable growth.

The cleaner production (CP) tries to improve industrial productivity implementing better domestic practices. Also includes recycling materials; recovering industrial sub-products and the modification of production process, which means a reduction in production cost as to materials, electricity and water. This event will promote the implementation of better practices for a cleaner production and will provide examples to the participants of projects in the manufacturers and tourism sectors where it has been implemented with great success.

During the last eight years, USAID has been promoting practices for a cleaner production in some areas of Latin America, specifically through national industrial partnerships and

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environmental ministries. Currently, there are 14 working centers on cleaner production in Latin America, but none in the Caribbean.

According to a study of 50 auditors done in Latin-American countries, the average saved is a dollar per dollar invested. However, such programs have successfully improved production for small and medium business in United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America, specifically Mexico.

Although this program is on its primary stage in the Caribbean, where tourism industry reports a 70% of the internal revenue and employs 90% of the population, Jamaica had started to see the benefits due to this program.

This seminar expects to give the necessary tools so that the Caribbean hotel industry could rival Jamaica's example.

Attending this event were Mr. José Manuel Armenteros, President of the Santo Domingo Chamber of Commerce and Production; Mr. John Mizroch, President of the World Environment Center and Mr. Gilbert Jackson, USAID Latin America and Caribbean Environmental Manager.